

REMARKS

Claim 1-7 are pending. Claim 1 was amended. New claim 7 was added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to due to the formal matters noted by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the claim serve to cure such informalities.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Sudo et al. (USPN 4,935,042) in view of Outland (USPN 4,276,071). Independent claim 1 has been amended to more succinctly claim the invention. Support for the additional limitations is present in the specification as filed at page 4, lines 10-12 and 17-20 and Figs. 1 and 2. Neither of the cited references suggests a structure wherein the inflow passages of the filter body are longitudinally oriented within a tubular housing nor do they suggest a configuration in which the outflow channels open into a chamber that is laterally adjacent to the filter body and that extends along the entire length of the housing. Fig. 9 of the primary reference clearly shows the inlet passages (34) extending perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis of the housing 37 while the outflow channels open into a chamber longitudinally adjacent to the filter body. The filter configuration of the present invention unexpectedly results in less flow resistance and the ability to handle higher exhaust flows than the device shown in the cited reference is capable of. Additionally, the claimed configuration provides for a better utilization of space than the cited art is capable of. The filter of the present invention can be accommodated in a single tubular enclosure as opposed to the multifaceted complex housing that is shown in Fig. 9 of the primary reference. It is therefore respectfully submitted that obviousness is effectively avoided.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Sudo et al. in view of Outland and further in view of Taketomo et al. (USPN 4,671,809). In view of the non-obviousness of the underlying independent claim as was argued above, it is

respectfully submitted that all claims depending therefrom similarly avoid obviousness. Support for new claim 7 is present in the specification at page 4, lines 10-12 and Fig. 1.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants earnestly believe the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early notice thereof.

The commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LLP

/Gunther O. Hanke/

Gunther O. Hanke, Reg. No. 32,989

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